



## Michael D. Lawrence

April 24, 1956 - June 4, 2023

Michael D. Lawrence, age 67, of Kankakee, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Sunday, June 4, 2023 at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee, after a valiant battle with cancer.

He was born April 24, 1956 in Pasadena, CA, the son of Clayton & Wilma (Swanson) Lawrence.

Michael married Andrea Schindler on June 9, 1979 in New Glarus, WI.

Michael was a dedicated educator and coach in several different states for 44 years.

He enjoyed all sports, traveling, and spending time in the water. He loved investing time in his students and players. Most of all, he loved spending time with his grandkids.

Michael was a member of Calvary Bible Church in Bourbonnais.

Surviving are his wife, Andrea Lawrence of Kankakee; two daughters, Sara (Jonathan) Lemenager of Liberty Hill, TX and Amy Lawrence of Leander, TX; one sister, Jan (Mark) Reid of Costa Mesa, CA; one brother, Ren (Amanda) Lawrence of Georgetown, TX; and two granddaughters, Kate Lemenager and

Quinn Lemenager.

Michael is preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be held 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at Schreffler Funeral Home in Kankakee.

An additional visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. funeral service on Friday, June 9, 2023 at Calvary Bible Church in Bourbonnais.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral services.

Memorials may be made to Kankakee Trinity Academy Athletics Department.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel  
1900 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-2421  
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

## Visitation

JUN 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Calvary Bible Church  
2587 E. Armour Rd.  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

## Funeral Service

JUN 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Calvary Bible Church  
2587 E. Armour Rd.  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

# Tribute Wall

SR

“ Coach was the one who gave me the nickname of rabbit lol if you know you know. One of my favorite softball coaches and he will be miss.



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**Samaria R** - June 19, 2023 at 11:33 PM

KW

“ I never forget how excited Mr Lawrence was when I graduated with good grades he was so proud of me that he gave me a president and principal award the principle award I cherishes more Kerry Wintrode

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**kerry wintrode** - June 14, 2023 at 03:48 PM

MM

“ Mrs. Lawrence and Family, sincerest condolences and prayers to you and your family. Mr. Lawrence was a blessing to our sons, family, and this community.



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**Michael & Rita Morris** - June 10, 2023 at 06:56 PM

JR

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Andrea, Sara, Amy and the entire Lawrence family on the loss of Mike. I've known Mike while first coaching, then later umpiring for/with Mike at BBYSL from 1991. I've always enjoyed my time with Mike, especially the times when Mike and several other umpires were still out at BBYSL long after the games were finished just talking about anything at all to the point that my wife Jan would drive over to the fields to make sure I was still alive. I will miss those conversations and his humor. Not only does his passing leave a huge hole in my heart, but also a huge hole in our community. Rest in peace my friend!

*Jan & John*

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**John Rodgers** - June 09, 2023 at 04:37 PM

KD

“ Mr. Mike was such an amazing mentor to me out at BBYSL. He taught me how to drag the fields, and take care of them properly. He helped me learn how to umpire. I grew up out there around him and all the other umpires. He was an amazing person and we will all miss him so dearly <3



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**Kaylee Desler** - June 09, 2023 at 01:35 AM

RF

“ I appreciate teachers and coaches that are committed to growing the next generation. Coach Lawrence was all in, when it came to sports and kids. He showed up everywhere. I snagged these pictures of him, one night, when he was at BBYSL. 69 is far too young to depart. Prayers of comfort for his family.



Riley Family - June 07, 2023 at 09:53 AM

KS

“ Mike was my beloved cousin. He was in my life for 59 years. Our love for sports bonded us together. He had some great stories about his umpiring experiences. He was a true supporter of my son, Brandon, and his baseball career. Amy expressed to me that over Mother's Day weekend, that she and Mike were watching baseball and he started talking about Brandon's career and how proud he was of him. It's hard to imagine what my life will be like without Mike's updates on his teams and what they were accomplishing. It was so inspiring to see the students that came to the hospital to support and encourage Mike when he was in ICU with COVID-19. He was such a great role model to many and he will be dearly missed.



Kimberly Swanson - June 06, 2023 at 10:18 PM

DP

“ As a former college baseball player for Coach Lawrence in Atlanta; he demonstrated and taught us to hard work and be dedicated not only in sports but to Jesus. He was a man of character.

David Parmer - June 06, 2023 at 06:15 PM

DP

“ Coach Lawrence was my college baseball coach in Atlanta. He was a man of character and dedication to Jesus. He was loved by our team.

David Parmer  
Baptist University, Class of 1985



David Parmer - June 06, 2023 at 06:05 PM

JJ

“ So sorry to hear about Mike’s home going. I was blessed while under his leadership while teaching 1st grade at Grace Baptist Academy. I will be praying for his family!

Judy Claire Wilkinson Johnson - June 06, 2023 at 02:43 PM

WF

“ West Family lit a candle in memory of Michael D. Lawrence



west family - June 06, 2023 at 12:35 PM

TF

“ *The West Family lit a candle in memory of Michael D. Lawrence*



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**the west family** - June 06, 2023 at 12:34 PM

TF

“ *The West Family lit a candle in memory of Michael D. Lawrence*



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**the west family** - June 06, 2023 at 12:33 PM

RB

“ *Coach will be so missed here in Texas. We always looked forward to his visits; and nothing made me happier than to feed him home cooked food, just to hear him gush about how good it was! He lit up the room with his beautifully boisterous energy and made us all feel so appreciated. What a sweet soul to have lost so soon. Our prayers for Andrea and the girls, you have a tough road ahead, but you won't be alone.*  
*Love and blessings, The Badder family*

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**Rebecca Badder** - June 06, 2023 at 08:55 AM

CH

“ *So many wonderful memories of Mike at Deer Creek. So very sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers. Harry & Cathy Hall*

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**Cathy Hall** - June 06, 2023 at 12:13 AM

SW

“ Steve West lit a candle in memory of Michael D. Lawrence



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steve west - June 05, 2023 at 09:47 PM

TH

“ The world has lost a hero. He has influenced the entire Harwood family in sports and even greater in forming my children's character. His impact will never be forgotten. Thank you so much to Andrea and family for sharing him with all of us. I will miss our conversations about his father being a CHP motor officer. We could not have respected another human being more than Mike.



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Thomas Harwood - June 05, 2023 at 06:26 PM